Docket No. 2629-4017

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): James ANTHONY et al.

Serial No.: 09/954,839

Group Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Chunduru, S.

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BY TYPE-SPECIFIC HYBRID CAPTURE METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application in response to the Official Action of October 17, 2002 as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:

a) hybridizing a single stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe to form double-stranded hybrids between said probes and the target nucleic acid, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal sequence probe are capable of hybridizing to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and not being capable of hybridizing to each other, wherein the signal sequence probe is unlabeled and said hybridization forms a sequence probe:target hybrid; and

b) adding a blocker probe to the hybridization reaction, wherein said blocker probe hybridizes to excess non-hybridized capture sequence probes;

c) capturing the sequence probe:target hybrid to form a bound hybrid; and

d) detecting the bound hybrid.

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